

Michigan State Senate
PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909

September 20, 2016

To whom it may concern:

Ladies and gentleman I would like to share with you the deep, tremendous, sorrowful, pit of grief my children and I feel at the loss of a husband and father. This past July 27th marked 5 years that my husband of 37 years, the father of our 2 beautiful children ages 24 and 29 years, was killed by a distracted driver while riding his bicycle in Orion Township. He won't be walking his daughter down the aisle at her wedding, he will never again sail in the beautiful Great Lakes or hold my hand. I swore from the day he was killed that I would do all I can to promote safe riding for bicyclists.

I have attended the bicycle advocacy days, and have participated in the Ride of Silence every year. I also felt compelled to attend the Kalamazoo ride and pray at the sight where so many were killed and injured. Every time a bicyclist is killed here in Michigan, and it has been too many this year, I relive the pain and horror of July 27th, 2011! I also get angry, very, very angry, because not one more ghostbike should have been put up since my Ralph was killed!

The time is now to pass these bills, to help with vulnerable road users, to increase driver education awareness on bicyclists, and I would love to see protected lanes everywhere in the state of Michigan. Distracted or impaired driving is the reason so many bicyclists have been killed. Let us increase penalties for distracted and impaired drivers. There are no accidents, only crashes that could have been prevented. I love Michigan and the sadness that has prevailed in our state due to all the recent deaths is so unnecessary. Please help, make my goal come true, no more bicyclists deaths in Michigan, no more ghostbikes!

Sincerely,

Judith M. Finneren
Lake Orion, MI